EC

lesson seeds

grades 9-12

PRODUCING *beats*

E N G I N E E R I N G   A N D   M U S I C

Objectives

CONTENT	FINE ARTS
HS-ETS1-4. Use a computer simulation to model the impact of proposed solutions to a complex real-world problem with numerous criteria and constraints on interactions within and between systems relevant to the problem.	**Music 1:** Singing alone and with others, **Music 2:** Performing with instruments alone and with others, **Music 6:** Listening to, analyzing and describing music.

Materials:

- pencils, pens
- internet
- journals
- copies of poems
- computers
- microphones (if not included internally)

Extension:

- Watch segments of the PointBlank Video Q&A about Mixing and Mastering in a music studio: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hll8tyhJ3aE

Pre-assessment:
Students listen to a variety of live and studio version music pieces and use "Hear, Think, Wonder" to describe their observations of the music.

Engagement:
Engage students in a discussion about their ideas on why music sounds different live vs. in the studio. Watch the 4-minute video about mixing and mastering: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNuD0U84NXk

Activity:
Discuss the roles of a recording engineer (oversees the technical aspects of the piece and fixes any problems) and a producer (oversees the creative direction of the piece).

Ask students to get into groups of 3-4. One person in the group will be the producer, one will be the engineer and one or two will be the performers.

Each student group will select a piece of poetry from this list: http://www.poets.org/page.php/prmID/86 to perform.

The producer will take creative lead and suggest how the performers should recite the work. The performers will work together to read the work with attention to line, fluency, and emphasis. Once the group is ready, they can record their recitation using either Garageband (mac) or Audacity (PC). The engineer will listen for any problems and correct via the software tool and may add enhancements as need (background beats or music, etc). The producer will make suggestions and the performers will re-record as needed.

Closing:
Students will share their a live version of their performance, followed by the recorded/edited version.

Assessment:

Music Mixing Critique
Ask students to listen to each group perform both the live and edited versions of their poems. The class will complete a rubric analysis of how each group used mixing and mastering to enhance the poem.